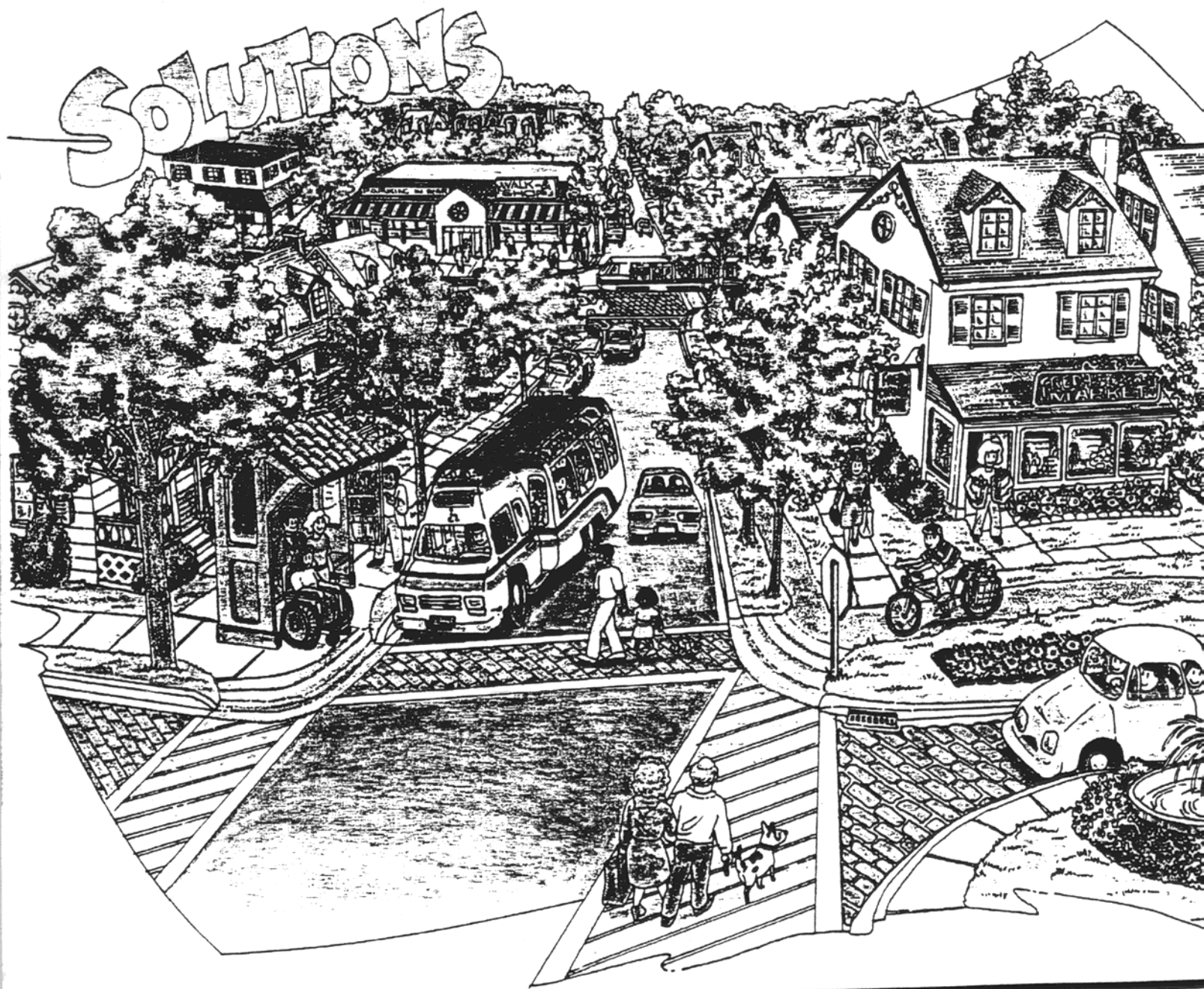


Olympia's Plan To Grow Smart





City of
OLYMPIA

2404 Heritage Court SW #B, Olympia, WA 98502-6031 (360) 786-5745

July 26, 1996

Mr. Lloyd Skinner
CH2M HILL
PO Box 91500
Bellevue, WA 98009

Ms. Dee Caputo
Adams County Planning & Building Dept.
165 North First
Othello, WA 99344

Dear Mr. Skinner and Ms. Caputo:

I am pleased to submit the enclosed project for consideration for an APA/PAW 1996 award. This citizen involvement program encourages ongoing discussion among citizens of all ages and involves City Council and Planning Commission members. The project followed closely on the heels of the adoption of Olympia's new Comprehensive Plan and development regulations. Its purpose is to continue the dialogue that occurred during comprehensive planning.

The program acknowledges the importance of ongoing education and feedback about City visions. It also acknowledges that citizens will not give even grudging support to actions if they do not understand the reasons for them. When the project was funded, Olympia policy makers noted that despite valiant efforts to involve the public, many citizens were not involved and many new people have moved in; that the new comprehensive plan "pushed the envelope" of change in the short amount of time allowed under the GMA; and that achieving the vision described in the plan will take understanding and commitment to the vision over time.

The school program, and adult video and discussion question exercise has been well received. The City Council and Planning Commission facilitators have enjoyed participating. We feel that we have taken a first step toward ongoing public discussion of the complex issues that accompany growth. The GMA required communities to look at a myriad of issues simultaneously rather than in the isolated way they have often been dealt with in the past. We can no longer allow consideration for land use, transportation, environment and other issues to be dealt with separately. This citizen involvement program is a simple, cost effective tool that has allowed us to continue the integrated discussion that is reflected in our new plans.

Please consider this entry as you review citizen involvement projects for 1996 awards.

Sincerely,

Bob Jacobs, Mayor
City of Olympia



19:sp
City Council
City Manager
City Attorney
Administrative Services

753-8450
753-8447
753-8449
753-8325

Community Planning & Development
Fire
Human Resources
Parks/Recreation/Cultural Services

753-8314
753-8348
753-8442
753-8380

Police
Public Works
Area Code

753-8300
753-8362
(360)

OLYMPIA'S PLAN TO GROW SMART

or ... How Olympia plans to continue to grow and still be a great place to live.

An interactive public information and education program on Olympia's Comprehensive Plan and development regulations

Kathy McCormick
Olympia Community Planning and Development,
Advance Planning and Historic Preservation
2404 Heritage Court SW #B
Olympia, WA 98502-6031
(360) 786-5745
(360) 754-4413

Category of submission - Citizen Involvement

Scope of the Project

Two interactive programs that:

- explain Olympia's new Comprehensive Plan,
- get citizen feedback,
- are formatted for facilitation by City Council and Planning Commission members.

The one hour program for younger students and the slide/tape or video program for older students and adults were prepared in late 1995 with ongoing presentations since then.

Why this nomination is unique, significant, and a successful contribution to the planning profession.

Despite excellent citizen participation and general support when the Olympia Comprehensive Plan was adopted, City leaders acknowledged that many citizens had not been involved in the planning process. By funding this financially modest and easily maintained program, they hoped to continue a dialogue with citizens who had been involved in the planning process and reach others who have not been involved.

City interest in getting young people involved builds on other efforts to reach out to the inheritors of the City of tomorrow. Discussions with students indicate that environmental education has been successful. However, there is a major "disconnect" when it comes to understanding how planning for growth is key to a quality environment.

The interactive curriculum program for 4th through 7th grade students fits into civics, and Washington State history programs since it talks about how and why Olympia grew the way that it did (and uses some engaging historic slides to show how Olympia changed over time). The program uses a map, slides and a take home poster to convey information and get them involved in the discussion. The program gives information about City plans for accommodating another 25,000 people over the next 20 years.

The slide/tape or video program for use with older students and adults highlights 15 things that Olympia is doing to make sure that quality of life is maintained as the City continues to grow. The program points out that Olympia is not alone in its search for a better way to:

- use land
- maintain mobility for everyone
- deal with growing dependence on cars
- meet the diverse housing needs of people who want to live, work or go to school here
- keep a clean environment
- provide green spaces and other places for people to interact and play.

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Both interactive programs give participants a chance to discuss what they like and don't like about how the City is growing, to come up with some solutions or identify what they think the City should be focusing on. Discussion notes from each of these sessions are shared with the City Council in the City Manager's monthly report.

Extent of Implementation

Upon program development completion, a training session was held and availability was advertised. Since late January, 425 students in 15 classes have participated, three community presentations have been made and two more are scheduled, and the video has been shown repeatedly on local access TV.

Both City Council and Planning Commission participants report thoroughly enjoying the discussions especially with students. Teachers are thankful for student's finding out what City Council and Planning Commission do, how decisions are made and how citizens can get involved.

Thank you notes received from students and from a teacher have been included in this application as well as the recorded responses from a session with a fourth grade class. (See attachments)

Extent of public and private involvement

The City Council approved the outline for the program, local teachers shared information and examples of interactive curriculum with planners and reviewed the draft program. A retired local radio news and commentary reporter volunteered time to do the voice over on the slide/tape and video and the school district distributed information to targeted age group teachers. To date 7 Planning Commission members, 3 City Council members, and the Planning Director have facilitated sessions with school and community groups.

Applicant Affiliation

Member

Name of agency recipients to be listed on the awards certificate

City of Olympia

19:sp

Olympia's Plan to Grow Smart

Recorded Responses of the Interactive Exercise with Fourth Graders

What's Good About The Way Olympia's Growing?

- Creative ways to deal with problems like recycling
- More friends
- More jobs
- More taxes--city can build better things
- More stores
- More schools
- Planting trees
- More things to do
- More people to meet
- More hospitals/services
- New buildings/replace old
- More fun stuff to try
- More car dealerships
- More taxpayers
- New things being made

What's Not So Good?

- Schools too full
- Area too crowded
- Lot more houses
- More crime
- Traffic congestion/more dangerous traffic
- Less room to play (smaller lots)
- Loss of trees
- Animal homes destroyed
- Less land for recreation, farms, horses
- Air pollution
- Sewage, garbage
- Noise
- Less parks/places to play/no quiet places
- Longer lines at the stores
- Endangered species
- Crackerbox houses
- More industry/more pollution

What The City Should Do About The Things Students Don't Like About Growth

- More neighborhood crime watch
- More traffic lights
- Less roads/more sidewalks and bikepaths
- Special reserve areas for animals
- Build more schools
- Encourage carpooling
- Shop at the local store
- Ride a bike
- Save space by use of apartment buildings
- Police can use bikes
- Plant trees
- Build more parks
- Build big playground in middle of Olympia
- Build bigger parks
- Build one big park in Olympia
- Get your street to have playground
- Electric buses
- Make buses cleaner (more desirable)
- Build taller instead of wider
- More people living together
- Build houses closer to things they like to see
- More buses, slow cars down
- Toll roads
- Larger cars/more people in them
- Make animal shelters
- Solar power
- More stuff like Chuck E. Cheese, Wildwaves
- More homeless shelters